




European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO)

Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) Update 2013 progress rating:



MAR 2011: *Very Good Value for Money for UK Aid*

Progress Assessment	
Summary	Strengthened processes to ensure gender is taken into account across programmes, and steps to link relief to longer-term development. Some progress on integrating environment and climate change into humanitarian response, but more work needed.
Baseline	
<p>ECHO is the European Commission's Directorate-General (DG) for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection. It is the second largest international humanitarian donor, after the US, disbursing £1.1 billion in 2012 to a wide range of large-scale emergencies and protracted and forgotten crises.</p> <p>The MAR highlighted several strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ECHO's work on humanitarian aid is aligned with UK priorities.• ECHO's role in disbursing EU funds quickly in emergency situations is crucial.• Strong mandate and policy framework for dealing with fragile and conflict sensitive situations. <p>The MAR also highlighted several weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Committed to gender equality but not yet successfully embedded into operational practice.- No formal system in place for evaluating the environmental impact of ECHO's activities by theme or at country level.- Weak link between humanitarian assistance and longer-term development. <p>DFID's reform priorities for the MAR Update were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Embed gender considerations into operational practice - assessed under <u>attention to cross-cutting issues (gender)</u>;• Take climate and environmental considerations more systematically into account in its activities - assessed under <u>attention to cross-cutting issues (climate change and environmental sustainability)</u>;• Strengthen the link between humanitarian interventions and longer-term development, through working with other parts of the EU - assessed under <u>strategic and performance management</u>.	
Summary of Overall Progress	
<p>ECHO has demonstrated its commitment to addressing the UK's reform priorities. At headquarters, there has been progress on gender and linking relief and longer-term development. At the operational level, the full impact of these changes is yet to be fully felt, but only two years after the MAR we would not expect to see substantial evidence of change across all field operations. There has been some progress on assessing the environmental impact of ECHO's activities.</p>	

Progress against Reform Priorities			
MAR Reform Component	MAR 2011 Score	Progress Rating	MAR Update Score, if any change
<p>Attention to cross-cutting issues (gender) ECHO has developed a new gender policy and gender (and age) marker to track gender-sensitive projects. This now needs to be embedded across ECHO's programmes.</p>	2	 Some progress	
<p>Attention to cross-cutting issues (climate change and environmental sustainability) Progress demonstrated in scale-up of ECHO's work on disaster risk reduction. Evidence of context-based approach to environmental impact assessment and environmental elements in country level evaluations. Still needs to strengthen processes for measuring the environmental impact of ECHO's projects.</p>	2	 Some progress	
<p>Strategic and performance management Progress has been demonstrated through leadership and innovation in joint ECHO/DEVCO (Commission DG for Development Cooperation)/EEAS (European External Action Service) working in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel on flagship resilience-building initiatives.</p> <p>Further progress needed in implementing the Commission Action Plan on resilience and demonstrating impact on the ground through joint working between humanitarian and development actors.</p>	2	 Reasonable progress	